# BIBLE SKILLS





## DID YOU KNOW?

THE COLOSSEUM WAS BUILT ALMOST 2,000 YEARS AGO. CHRISTIANS WERE PERSECUTED IN FRONT OF HUGE CROWDS GATHERED IN THIS ARENA.



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# WHY DO WE NEED TO FOCUS ON BIBLE SKILLS?

A. W. Tozer is noted for saying: "Nothing less than a whole Bible can make a whole Christian." Lifeway Research conducted a study to identify the characteristics that most impact a child's spiritual growth. While most families rely on regular church attendance and participation in church activities like Sunday school, VBS, and age-graded groups and activities to contribute to their children's faith development, the spiritual activity that has the greatest positive impact on a child's future spiritual health is regular Bible reading.

One way we can help boys and girls create a lifetime love of regular Bible reading is to practice these skills through which kids can begin to build their understanding and love of Scripture. This booklet can be used by church leaders, parents, and kids to develop three types of Bible skills—things kids should know (knowledge), things kids can practice (skills), and things kids can do (application). These Bible skills will help build biblical literacy that will last for a lifetime.

# MAKING THE CONNECTION

Parents and churches can work together to guide kids to make valuable connections to God's Word. Consider some of the following suggestions as you guide boys and girls to develop strong biblical literacy skills.

#### CHURCHES CAN ...

- Provide Bibles for kids to use while at church as they participate in worship and Bible study.
- Develop a Bible skills program.
- Train leaders on how to use the Bible during Bible study experiences to facilitate skill building.
- Challenge children to learn the books of the Bible in order.
- Provide additional tools, such as devotional magazines, learner resources, and digital apps that parents can use to enhance their children's biblical literacy.

#### PARENTS CAN ...

- Model the importance of Bible study by setting aside a regular time for family devotions.
- Provide a personal copy of the Bible for each person in your family.
- Take your Bibles to church and help your child use the Bible in worship.
  - Encourage children to find the Scripture reference they studied at church.
  - Use the Bible skills in this booklet to set goals for learning and mastering skills.



DID YOU KNOW?

THE COVERING ON THE TABERNACLE WAS MADE OUT OF RAM SKINS AND MANATEE HIDES.



# BUILDING BIBLE SKILLS WITH PRESCHOOLERS

Teachers and parents have the opportunity to introduce preschoolers to the Bible, God's special book. This introduction is accomplished through the use of Bible verses and phrases—portions of Bible verses restated using words preschoolers can understand. Repeating Bible verses and phrases while preschoolers engage in everyday activities is a way teachers and parents can help children become familiar with the Bible.

Guiding preschoolers to hear, understand, and apply the messages of Bible verses and passages is the main goal for Bible skill development in the early years. Remembering Bible verses can happen as preschoolers hear Bible verses over and over. The meaning of the verses will take root as the verses are used in the context of everyday life experiences and Bible-related activities.

Bible verses and phrases for preschoolers should contain concrete ideas. "Jesus is the Lamb of God" may be confusing to literal-minded preschoolers, but "Jesus is God's Son" communicates a description of Jesus that is more easily understood.

Preschoolers can learn that the Bible verses they hear are actually in the Bible. When preschoolers are guided to turn Bible pages to locate Bible words and phrases, they are learning about the written Word.

USING BIBLE VERSES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN GIVES ADULTS OPPORTUNITIES TO REINFORCE THE TRUTH THAT THE BIBLE IS A SPECIAL BOOK.



FIRST PETER 2:3 SAYS
THAT WE SHOULD
TASTE THAT THE LORD
IS GOOD. IN ANCIENT UR.
PEOPLE USED STRAWS
LIKE THIS ONE SO THEY
DIDN'T DRINK TRASH
OR INSECTS FLOATING
ON TOP OF THE WATER.
AND THEY COULD TASTE
THE CLEAN WATER
UNDERNEATH.

# **BUILDING BIBLE SKILLS WITH KIDS**

Building Bible skills with kids takes place every time children use their Bibles. Consider the many skill development opportunities that might be included in a single Bible study time:

- As girls and boys gather, they can sort cards naming Old Testament books in one bag and cards naming New Testament books in another bag.
- Boys and girls identify in which genre of the Bible the story is found. Biblical genres include law, history, poetry and wisdom, prophecy, gospels, and letters.
- Boys and girls identify in which division of the Bible the story is found. One child reviews Old Testament divisions, such as Law, Old Testament History, Poetry, Major Prophets, Minor Prophets. Another child reviews New Testament divisions, such as Gospels, New Testament History, Paul's Letters, General Letters, Prophecy.
- Children find the book of the Bible, chapter, and verse where the Bible story is found. They look for the name of a person in the story. The teacher explains that the Bible story is God's Word. The teacher identifies the division of the Bible where the Bible story is located and the genre the story is part of.
- Children find the memory verse in their Bibles and read it, talk about what it means, then play a game to learn the words of the verse.
- The teacher guides the children with her Bible open and references the Bible as she teaches.

Ask yourself: "When did children develop Bible skills during this session or experience?" They worked on Bible skills throughout the entire session!

Every time a child found a reference in his Bible or looked up a verse

to discover information, he was practicing Bible skills.

He was becoming more comfortable using his Bible.

He was building on the foundations for lifelong Bible use.

# DID YOU KNOW?

ANTONIA FORTRESS (NAMED AFTER HEROD'S
FRIEND MARCUS ANTONY) IS THE LIKELY LOCATION
WHERE PETER WAS IMPRISONED. THIS IS ALSO
LIKELY WHERE JESUS WAS HELD BEFORE HE
WAS CRUCIFIED, AND PAUL WAS TAKEN THERE,
TOO. THE FORTRESS HAD PASSAGEWAYS
THAT CONNECTED IT TO TEMPLE COURTS.
IT HAD 3 TOWERS 86 FEET HIGH AND ONE
TOWER 120 FEET HIGH. IT WAS THE PLACE
WHERE KING HEROD LIVED AND ROMAN
TROOPS STAYED.



# **BUILDING SCRIPTURE MEMORY WITH KIDS**

The Bible tells us to hide God's Word in our hearts and to meditate on it day and night so that God can use it to change us and grow us in His will. Psalm 119 is filled with verses that speak toward the importance of God's Word.

Memorizing Bible verses is so much more than "saying the words by heart." Consider these suggested quidelines:

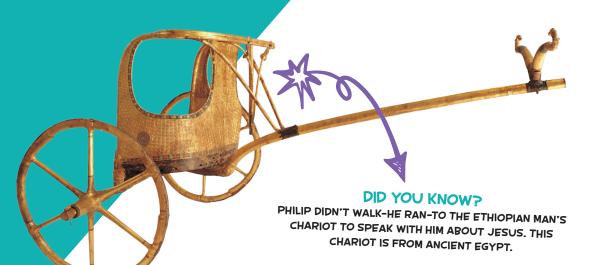
- Children can build a strong foundation for knowing what the Bible teaches by hearing. saying, and remembering key Bible verses over and over.
- Children absorb new material gradually. Generally speaking, the younger the child. the fewer verses he can be expected to learn and apply at a time.
- Children differ in their abilities. Some children can memorize words and grasp meanings quickly; others need additional practice and experience.
- Children learn by repetition. The more often a Bible verse is used and recalled, the better a child will remember and apply it.

Children's learning is enhanced when they are involved in activities. These activities can include singing a verse, acting out the meaning of the verse, matching verses with present-day pictures, and other activities suitable to the age group.

Children are more interested in learning when activities are varied and engaging.

# DID YOU KNOW?

THE SHOPHAR (ALSO KNOWN AS THE SHOFAR) IS A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MADE FROM A RAM'S HORN. THE SHOPHAR WAS USED BY THE PRIESTS TO CALL THE PEOPLE TOGETHER. IT WAS ALSO USED AS A WAR TRUMPET.



# THE MOST IMPORTANT **VERSES TO REMEMBER**

The following 75 verses are some important verses for children to hide in their hearts.

1.	Genesis 1:1
	00110313 1.1

- 2. Genesis 1:27
- 3. Genesis 1:31
- 4. Exodus 20:12
- 5. Leviticus 22:31
- Deuteronomy 6:5 6.
- Deuteronomy 16:17
- 8. Joshua 24:24
- 1 Chronicles 16:8
- 10. 1 Chronicles 16:9
- 11. Job 37:14
- Psalm 19:14 12.
- 13. Psalm 54:2
- 14. Psalm 56:3
- 15. Psalm 118:24
- 16. Psalm 119:11
- 17. Psalm 119:105
- 18. Psalm 145:9
- 19. Proverbs 3:5-6
- 20. Proverbs 8:33
- 21. Proverbs 15:1
- 22. Proverbs 20:11
- 23. Proverbs 22:1
- 24. Isaiah 6:8
- 25. Isaiah 9:6
- 26. Isaiah 40:8
- 27. Isaiah 45:5
- 28. Micah 6:8
- 29. Nahum 1:7
- 30. Malachi 3:10
- 31. Matthew 4:10
- **32.** Matthew 5:16
- 33. Matthew 5:44
- 34. Matthew 21:22
- Matthew 28:19-20
- 36. Mark 13:31
- Luke 2:52
- 38. Luke 6:31

#### 39. Luke 6:37

- Luke 11:9
- Luke 19:10
- John 3:16 42.
- John 4:24 43.
- 44. John 8:32
- 45. John 13:35
- 46. John 15:12
- John 15:13 47.
- 48. Acts 1:8 49. Acts 4:12
- Acts 16:31 50.
- Romans 8:28
- **52.** Romans 10:9
- Romans 12:1 53.
- Romans 14:12 54.
- 1 Corinthians 3:16
- 1 Corinthians 4:2 56.
- **57.** 1 Corinthians 10:31
- 58. 1 Corinthians 14:40
- 59. Ephesians 2:8
- Ephesians 4:32 60.
- Ephesians 6:1
- Philippians 4:13
- Colossians 3:23
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18
- 65. 1 Timothy 4:12
- 2 Timothy 1:7 66.
- 2 Timothy 2:15 67.
- 68.
- 2 Timothy 3:16
- 69. **James 1:19**
- 70. James 1:22
- 71. 1 Peter 4:9
- 72. 1 John 1:9
- **73.** 1 John 4:19
- 74. 1 John 4:21
- Revelation 4:11

#### DID YOU KNOW?

JESUS MIGHT HAVE **USED A BASIN LIKE** THIS TO WASH HIS DISCIPLES' FEET. THE BASIN WAS FILLED WITH WATER, AND A PERSON'S FOOT WAS PLACED ON THE RAISED PEDESTAL IN THE CENTER TO BE WASHED. THIS **BASIN IS ALMOST** 2,800 YEARS OLD!



# **OLD TESTAMENT** FOUNDATIONAL BIBLE STORIES

#### GOD CREATED THE WORLD

Genesis 1:1-2:3

#### ADAM AND EVE'S SIN

Genesis 2:15: 3

#### CAIN AND ABEL

Genesis 4:1-16

#### NOAH AND THE ARK

Genesis 6:5-9:17

#### ABRAM AND LOT

Genesis 12:1-9: 13

#### THE SACRIFICE OF ISAAC

Genesis 22:1-18

#### ISAAC WAS KIND

Genesis 26:12-33

#### **ESAU AND JACOB**

Genesis 27–28; 32:1-32; 33:1-4

#### JOSEPH AND HIS FAMILY

Genesis 37:1-36; 39:1-6; 41:1-45

#### JOSEPH FORGAVE HIS BROTHERS

Genesis 45:1-15; 50:15-21

#### BABY MOSES

Exodus 2:1-10

#### THE ISRAELITES CROSSED THE RED SEA

Exodus 14

#### THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Exodus 19:3-6; 20:1-17

#### THE TABERNACLE

Exodus 35:1,4-20; 36:1-38

#### JOSHUA AND CALEB OBEYED GOD

Numbers 13-14

#### JOSHUA AND JERICHO

Joshua 6:1-21

#### **GOD CHOSE GIDEON**

Judges 6:12-16; 7:1-8,15-22

#### SAMSON

Judges 13-16

#### **RUTH'S FAMILY**

Ruth 1-4

#### HANNAH PRAYED

1 Samuel 1:1-18

#### SAMUEL'S BIRTH AND CALLING

1 Samuel 1:20-28; 3

#### DAVID AND GOLIATH

1 Samuel 17:12-49

#### DAVID AND JONATHAN

1 Samuel 18:1-5: 19:1-7: 20:1-42

#### DAVID ANOINTED KING

2 Samuel 5

#### SOLOMON AND THE TEMPLE

1 Kings 8:1-61

#### GOD CARED FOR ELIJAH

1 Kings 17:7-16

#### GOD HELPED ELIJAH

1 Kings 18:2,18-39

#### **GOD PROTECTED ELIJAH**

1 Kings 19

#### ELISHA AND THE WIDOW

2 Kings 4:1-7

#### A COUPLE HELPED ELISHA

2 Kings 4:8-17

#### JOSIAH AND THE LOST SCROLL

2 Kings 22

#### WORK BEGINS ON THE TEMPLE

Ezra 3

#### **EZRA READ THE LAW**

Nehemiah 8:1-12: Ezra 7:6-10

## ESTHER

Esther 2-5

#### JEREMIAH WROTE GOD'S

Jeremiah 36:1-4,22-24, 27-28.32

#### PROPHETS TOLD ABOUT JESUS

Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Micah 5:2

#### DANIEL OBEYED GOD

Daniel 1:1-20

WORDS

#### DANIEL AND THE LION'S DEN

Daniel 6

#### JONAH

Jonah 1-3

DONKEYS WERE USED FOR TRAVELING AND CARRYING HEAVY LOADS. JESUS RODE INTO JERUSALEM ON A DONKEY, FULFILLING A PROPHECY FROM THE BOOK OF ZECHARIAH.



# DID YOU KNOW?

ALTHOUGH DAVID FACED A GIANT WITH ARMOR AND WEAPONS, GOD'S POWER LED DAVID TO DEFEAT GOLIATH WITH ONLY A SLINGSHOT AND A STONE-A STONE ABOUT THE SIZE OF A TENNIS BALL!



DID YOU KNOW?

THE GREAT ISAIAH SCROLL WAS FOUND IN A CAVE IN QUMRAN. THIS SCROLL IS ABOUT 8.5 INCHES TALL, OVER 24 FEET LONG.

AND IS FROM AROUND 125 BC.

# **NEW TESTAMENT FOUNDATIONAL BIBLE STORIES**



THIS FRAGMENT SHOWS THE OXYRHYNCHUS (OK-see-RINE-kus) HYMN. IT IS BELIEVED TO BE THE OLDEST CHRISTIAN HYMN TO INCLUDE LYRICS AND MUSICAL NOTES. ARCHAEOLOGISTS ESTIMATE THIS HYMN WAS WRITTEN SHORTLY AFTER JESUS LIVED ON THE EARTH.

# ANGELS VISITED MARY AND JOSEPH

Luke 1:26-38: Matthew 1:18-25

#### **JESUS WAS BORN**

Luke 2:1-20

#### SIMEON AND ANNA

Luke 2:25-38

#### **WISE MEN SAW JESUS**

Matthew 2:1-12

#### **JESUS WENT TO THE TEMPLE**

Luke 2:41-50

#### **JOHN THE BAPTIST**

Matthew 3:1-12

#### **JESUS WAS BAPTIZED**

Matthew 3:13-17

#### **JESUS WAS TEMPTED**

Matthew 4:1-11

#### JESUS CHOSE TWELVE HELPERS

Matthew 4:18-22; 10:2-4

#### **JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT PRAYER**

Matthew 6:5-15

#### PETER WALKED ON WATER

Matthew 14:22-33

#### THE RICH YOUNG RULER

Matthew 19:16-29

#### **JESUS FED THE 5.000**

John 6:1-15

#### **JESUS HEALED A BLIND MAN**

John 9:1-11.35-39

#### THE FOUR FRIENDS/ **JESUS HEALED PEOPLE**

Mark 2:1-12

#### **JESUS HEALED TEN LEPERS**

Luke 17:11-19

#### **JESUS CALMED THE STORM**

Matthew 8:23-27

#### **JESUS AND THE WOMAN AT THE WELL**

John 4:1-26

#### JESUS READ THE BIBLE SCROLL

Luke 4:16-28

#### **JESUS TOLD THE PARABLE** OF THE LOST SON

Luke 15:11-32

#### THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Luke 10:25-37

#### A WOMAN GAVE HER MONEY

Luke 21:1-4

#### **JESUS VISITED MARY & MARTHA**

Luke 10:38-42

#### **ZACCHAEUS MET JESUS**

Luke 19:1-10

#### THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY

Matthew 21:1-11

#### THE LAST SUPPER

Matthew 26:17-30

#### **JESUS WASHED THE DISCIPLES' FEET**

John 13:1-17

#### **JESUS PRAYED IN THE GARDEN**

Matthew 26:36-46

#### **CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION**

Matthew 27:27-61; 28:1-8

#### THOMAS BELIEVED

John 20:24-29

#### **BREAKFAST WITH JESUS**

John 21:1-13

#### THE ASCENSION

Acts 1:1-11

#### THE CHURCH BEGINS

Acts 2:1-40

#### THE CHURCH GROWS

Acts 2:41-47

#### THE CHURCH CHOSE LEADERS

Acts 6:1-7

#### STEPHEN PREACHED

Acts 6:8-15

#### PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN MAN

Acts 8:26-31,34-35,38-39

#### SAUL'S CONVERSION

Acts 9:1-20

#### SAUL TOLD ABOUT JESUS

Acts 9:20-31

#### PETER AND CORNELIUS

Acts 10:9-43

#### **PETER'S RESCUE**

Acts 12:1-17

#### **BARNABAS AND PAUL**

Acts 13:13-52

#### LYDIA LEARNED ABOUT JESUS

Acts 16:11-15

#### PAUL AND SILAS IN PRISON

Acts 16:16-34

#### **PAUL TAUGHT IN ATHENS**

Acts 17:16-34

#### PRISCILLA AND AQUILA

Acts 18

#### **PAUL TAUGHT IN ROME**

Acts 28

#### THE CHURCH IN CORINTH

1 Corinthians 1; 3; 4; 12

#### THE HOLY SPIRIT

Romans 8:1-17: Galatians 5:22-23

**TIMOTHY LEARNED ABOUT GOD** 

1 Timothy 1



USED AS A FOOD, MEDICINE, FUEL, AND FOR RELIGIOUS PURPOSES. SAMUEL ANOINTED KING DAVID WITH OIL IN THE BOOK OF

1 SAMUEL.

11

THE BIBLE'S TEACHING

AROUT SALVATION

THE RELIABILITY

OF THE BIBLE

THE MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE

THE INSPIRATION

OF THE BIBLE

# Associate God and Jesus with the Bible.

Hear that the Bible

is a special book.

Hear that the Bible tells

about God and Jesus.

Hear that God told people

to write the Bible.

Understand that the Bible tells that God sent Jesus to earth.

> Know everything in the Bible is true. Understand that God's words in the Bible will never go away.

> > Understand that the Bible teaches us what God and Jesus are like.

Learn that God told people what to write in the Bible.

Know the Bible tells that God sent Jesus to earth because He loves all people.

Understand that Bible truths will last forever.

Know the Bible helps people know more about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

Understand that God told the writers of the Bible what to write.

Know the Bible tells about God's plan to rescue us.

Understand that the truths in the Bible are without error and will never change.

Know the Bible is God's revelation about Himself and how He rescues and transforms us.

Understand that the Bible is the only inspired, written Word of God.

## **CHOOSING A CHILD'S BIBLE**

A Bible is one of the most valuable tools you can provide for your child to aid in her spiritual development. The value of the Bible you choose is not dependent upon its cost. The Bible's value lies in the fact that it is God's Word. Choose a Bible that will last for several years. As your child grows, she may need a Bible more suitable for her age. Your child may benefit from having two different Bibles—one to have as a preschooler and one to use while in elementary school.

# **GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING** A CHILD'S BIBLE

- SIZE. The Bible should be large enough for the child to hold easily, but not too large or heavy to carry.
- 2 FULL-TEXT. Preschoolers and schoolage children alike need to know that both testaments are included in the Bible and are equally important. Choose a complete Bible. Bible storybooks are great to use at home as a companion resource to the full-text Bible.
- **USER-FRIENDLY.** The Bible should be easy to use. Consider purchasing a Bible that contains a table of contents to assist school-age children in locating hard-tofind books and verses in the Bible.
- **REALISTIC ILLUSTRATIONS.** Pictures in the Bible can reinforce that people and stories in the Bible are real and true.

- 5 TRANSLATION. Choose a complete translation of the biblical text rather than a paraphrase. The best Bible translations for children combine reliability with readability, such as the CSB®.
- 6 STUDY HELPS. School-age children may wish to know more about the customs or lifestyles of the people in the Bible. Many Bibles include great maps and other study helps.
- **DURABILITY.** Make sure the cover is of good quality. Consider purchasing a Bible carrying case that will protect and add length to the life of a child's Bible.
- YOUR CHILD'S INPUT. Allow your schoolage child to help select the color or cover design of his Bible. Personalizing your child's name on the outer cover or inscribing the inside cover will give your child a feeling of ownership.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

THE HOLY SPIRIT TOLD OVER 40 AUTHORS WHAT TO WRITE IN THE BIBLE. AUTHORS INCLUDE SHEPHERDS, FISHERMEN, FARMERS, AND KINGS.



#### **CSB® READ TO ME BIBLE**

Easy-to-read and easyto-use, the CSB® Read to Me Bible offers a singlecolumn format and special features such as fullcolor realistic Bible story illustrations that make it a perfect choice for kids ages 0-8, whether in the classroom, at church, or at home with the family. 9781433648847 \$9.99



#### **CSB® DEFEND YOUR FAITH BIBLE**

This four-color, apologetics kids Bible offers hundreds of features to intridue and challenge young readers. Part of the successful **Apologetics Study Bible** line, the CSB® Defend Your Faith Bible introduces apologetics to elementaryaged kids and equips them to understand what they believe, why they believe it, and how to defend it. 9781433649011 \$29.99

#### **CSB® KIDS BIBLE**

This CSB® Kids Bible offers young readers an exciting approach to Bible study. Dozens of full-color pages are filled with study helps that will expand kids' Bible knowledge and help them connect to the people, places, and events they are learning about.



Perfect for using at home, church, and school, the CSB® Kids Bible is a Bible that will grow with your kids as they grow in Christ. 9781462777679 **\$19.99** 

#### **CSB® ESSENTIAL TEEN** STUDY BIBLE

The CSB® Essential Teen Study Bible can give you all the tools you need to tackle this life and learn to live it God's way. Filled with hundreds of study helps and 146 devotions written especially for teens, this fully designed, four-color Bible will help you apply God's Word each day and connect with Him as never before.



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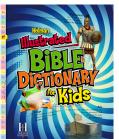
9781433648830 \$9.99

#### **HOLMAN ILLUSTRATED BIBLE DICTIONARY FOR KIDS**

The Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary for Kids helps children ages 5 to 10 better understand more than 750 Bible terms through vivid design and



clear, concise definitions. More than 500 of the featured words are paired with fullcolor photographs, illustrations, maps, or reconstructions to enhance comprehension. 005268545 \$14.99



#### **BIBLE TIMELINE FOR KIDS**

The Bible Timeline for Kids gives kids a fun, creative way to visualize when events in biblical books occurred and aids children in placing biblical events into historical context. 005811866 **\$24.99** 



IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO PURCHASE A FULL-TEXT BIBLE FOR YOUR CHILD!

# **Lifeway** kids

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